



## Meadows Museum Hosts Free Symposium on Alba Family's Significant Private Collection

*International Symposium on December 4 Explores "Treasures from the House of Alba: 500 Years of Art and Collecting"*

**Dallas (SMU), November 23, 2015** – [The Meadows Museum](#) at Southern Methodist University will host "Alba: Lives and Afterlives of a Historic Collection," a free international symposium on Friday, December 4, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The event, which is open to the public, will bring together established and emerging scholars for discussion and debate on a selection of masterpieces from the collection of the Alba family. Held to coincide with *Treasures from the House of Alba: 500 Years of Art and Collecting*, this will be one of the last opportunities to study this historic collection before the exhibition closes on January 3, 2016. The symposium is co-organized by the Meadows Museum and The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History at the University of Texas at Dallas.

The morning will begin with an informal viewing of the exhibition, followed by three keynote lectures in the Bob and Jean Smith Auditorium exploring the remarkable development of the Alba collection. The first lecture will examine the dispersal of the collection during the 19th century, the second will investigate the political appropriation of the collection during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939), and the third will address the conservation history of the collection in the 20th century. In the afternoon, eight speakers will present "object biographies" of individual works within the exhibition, including the Alba Family Bible, a Renaissance tapestry by Willem de Pannemaker, and several iconic paintings, notably Goya's celebrated portrait of *The Duchess of Alba in White* (1795).

Presenters include:

Rafael Alonso, Conservator, Museo Nacional del Prado

Nicole Atzbach, Curator, Meadows Museum

Miriam Basilio, Associate Professor of Art History and Museum Studies, NYU

Richard Brettell, Founding Director of The Edith O'Donnell Institute of Art History and the Margaret M. McDermott Distinguished Chair of Art and Aesthetic Studies, UT Dallas

Lori Diel, Associate Professor and Coordinator of Art History, Texas Christian University

Amy Freund, Assistant Professor and The Kleinheinz Family Endowment for the Arts and Education Endowed Chair in Art History, SMU

Shira Lander, Professor of Practice and Director of Jewish Studies, SMU

Lisa Pon, Associate Professor of Art History, SMU

Mark A. Roglán, The Linda P. and William A. Custard Director of the Meadows Museum and Centennial Chair in the Meadows School of the Arts, SMU

Mark Rosen, Associate Professor of Aesthetic Studies, Edith O'Donnell Institute, UT Dallas

Xavier Salomon, Peter Jay Sharp Chief Curator, Frick Collection, New York

“This is an extraordinary opportunity to examine these objects in real depth, as most of them have never left Spain before,” said Mark A. Roglán. “We anticipate that this symposium will spark some thought-provoking discussions, bring to light new discoveries, and inspire future research projects.”

The symposium will close the Meadows Museum's 50th Anniversary celebration. There is no cost and parking is free. No reservations are required for the event, but space is limited and seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be a lunch break and reception to follow for the attendees. For more information, call 214.768.4677 or visit [www.meadowsmuseumdallas.org/symposia.html](http://www.meadowsmuseumdallas.org/symposia.html).

**About The Alba Collection:**

For more than 500 years, the Alba family has formed part of the most important aristocratic lineages in Europe. In celebration of the Meadows Museum's 50th anniversary, they have graciously loaned 140 works from their private collection, many of which have never left Spain until now. [\*Treasures from the House of Alba: 500 Years of Art and Collecting\*](#) presents fine and decorative arts drawn from three of the family's most spectacular palaces in Madrid, Seville, and Salamanca, including paintings by Goya, Fra Angelico, Titian, Rubens, Renoir and Velázquez; etchings by Rembrandt and Dürer; the Alba Family Bible, one of the first translations from Hebrew into a Romance language; a first edition of *Don Quijote*; Renaissance tapestries; Sèvres porcelain; and Christopher Columbus's logbook from his voyage of discovery. Following its presentation at the Meadows Museum, the show will travel to the Frist Center for the Visual Arts in Nashville, where it will be on display from February 5 through May 1, 2016.

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**About the Meadows Museum:**

The Meadows Museum in Dallas, Texas is a premier American institution focused on building awareness and continuing to honor and educate the public on the culture and art of Spain. In 1962, Dallas businessman and philanthropist Algur H. Meadows provided funding and items from his personal art collection to Southern Methodist University to begin implementing his vision of a “Prado for Texas.” Since its opening in 1965, the Meadows Museum has grown to be one of the leading galleries to display Spanish art, with its comprehensive collection being one of the largest outside of Spain.

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